

Massachusetts House of Representatives
Bill Summary

Bill #: H.4843

Title: An Act providing for the exchange of certain park land in the town of Lexington

Sponsor: Rep. Michelle Ciccolo

Committee: Municipalities and Regional Government

Hearing Date: March 3, 2026

Current Law: Article 97 of the amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution requires a two-thirds vote of each branch of the Legislature prior to changing the use of, transferring or otherwise conveying protected resources such as park land, conservation land, wetlands, forests, and open space.

Mass. General Laws Chapter 3, Section 5A is the Public Lands Preservation Act. It established additional criteria and requirements for governmental bodies seeking to transfer or convey, etc. Constitutionally protected land or water resources. It requires an appraisal, alternatives analysis and review to be conducted by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Chapter 114 of the Acts of 1961 authorized the town of Lexington to use certain park and playground land for school or playground or recreational purposes. The land had been conveyed to the town in 1914 and 1915.

Summary: Section 1 of the bill authorizes the Lexington select board, pursuant to a vote of the town meeting, to transfer approximately 8 acres of land to the school committee for school purposes. The land being conveyed is currently under the control of the select board and used for athletic fields.

The land being conveyed will be used to construct a new high school.

Section 2 states that, as a condition of the disposition of land authorized in section 1, the town of Lexington shall transfer land (also 8 acres) from the school committee to the select board for purposes of creating a new athletic field and public park, and for open space and recreational use.

This would take place after demolition of the existing school.

Notes: This language was approved as Article 9 at the November 3, 2025 Special Town Meeting; motion carried by a vote of 155 Yes, 13 No, and 4 abstain.